Executive Committee No.38
February 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

London , Lambeth Palace
February 4 - 8 , 1952

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Minutes of the seventh meeting of the

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

London , Lambeth Palace
February 4 - 8 , 1952

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was opened with prayer by the Bishop of Chichester. Worship services throughout the meeting were taken by different members of the Committee .

2. Presiding Officers : The Bishop of Chichester , Chairman
Dr.Franklin C.Fry , Vice-Chairman .

3. Attendance

Presidents : Bishop E.Berggrav
Dr.Marc Boegner
The Archbishop of Canterbury
Bishop G.Bromley Oxnam

Members : Archbishop Y. Brilioth
Dr.L.E.Cooke
Dr.K.G.Grubb
Dr.A.Koechlin
Dr.M.Niemöller
Dr.G.A.Sisco
Mrs.L.Swain
Dr.T.Taylor

Substitutes: Professor H.Alivisatos (for Metropolitan Panteleimon)
Archimandrite Timiadis (for Metropolitan Athenagoras)

Consultants : Mr.G.Lombard
Mr.C.Parlin

Staff : The Rev.R.S.Bilheimer
Mr.B.Causton
Dr.N.Ehrenström
Dr.N.Goodall
Dr.Henry Smith Leiper
Dr.R.C.Mackie
Dr. O.F.Nolde
Mr.F.Northam
Dr.F.W.Tomkins
The Rev. O.Tomkins
Dr.W.A.Visser 't Hooft

4. Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of August 1 - 4 , 1951, were approved as circulated .

5. General Secretary's Report

Dr.Visser't Hooft explained that in his report he would deal mostly with matters which did not appear in other items of the agenda .

(a) Developments within the World Council of Churches

The first matter for report concerns the three documents of the Central Committee : "The Church , the Churches and the World Council of Churches" , "The Calling of the Church to Mission and to Unity" and "The First Report of the Advisory Commission on the Theme of the Second Assembly" . All reports are still being discussed within the Churches, it not yet being possible to indicate a complete reaction from the Churches to any . It is nevertheless true that there is a lively reaction to all three . It is typical that the reports are taken up with different interest among different Churches , so that some Churches will respond with interest to one and not to others . It is perhaps time to take up the question of next steps in regard to the document on ecclesiology . Many Churches have studied it in an official way and the file on responses grows constantly . It may be wise that a revised edition of the document be prepared in the light of the responses for submission to the next Assembly . Reactions to the other two documents are very diverse , strong objections and strong agreements appearing in reference to each , all of which reflects the ecumenical situation in which we find ourselves . Our experience with all of these documents indicates that we must in the future pay more attention to the formulation of our convictions for there is much misunderstanding which could be removed by the use of simpler language .

We must report particularly on parts of our own membership with which we have lost normal contact . Following the meeting of the Central Committee , word was received from the Anglican Bishop of Hongkong intimating that word had reached him that the Anglican Church of China had decided to leave the World Council. But no word has come from the Church directly or from any other member Churches in China .

The situation in Hungary becomes more complicated, very largely because it is clear that in spite of Bishop Bereczky's presence at the Central Committee meeting , most of what transpired at that meeting has been misunderstood in Hungary . It is nevertheless clear that the Hungarian Churches desire to remain within the World Council . It is also true that there are many signs of a strong desire for ecumenical contact in other Eastern European countries such as Poland , Bulgaria and Yugoslavia . The Orthodox Church of Yugoslavia, although not a member of the World Council, feels itself spiritually a part of the ecumenical fellowship, largely because of our work of interchurch aid in the past years .

Two new applications for membership have been received : from the Anglican Church of West Africa and the Russian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A.

(b) In regard to relationships with other Christian agencies, it is increasingly clear that the International Council of Christian Churches is not making any headway . In different parts of the world they are unable to hold the respect and loyalty of those to whom they initially appeal .

It is , however, very important to pay serious attention to the development of the World's Evangelical Fellowship . This body is in process of formation, the two major centres of interest being the World Evangelical Alliance (British) and the National Association of Evangelicals (U.S.). Membership in the proposed W.E.F. is to be held by Churches , movements and individuals . The attitude of the W.E.F. toward the World Council is not yet clear. There are some groups within it which are antoganistic, some favourable and a central block which is on the whole neutral . Within this movement, however, it is clear that there is both spritual and organisational substance which will be worthy of very careful attention on our part .

Another movement in process of formation is the International League for Apostolic Faith and Order . This is a high-church movement which desires to bring together those in different Churches who have a high-church conception of apostolic succession and catholic worship . Its leadership intends to cooperate with the World Council and to play its part within the ecumenical movement .

Two points should be reported in regard to the Vatican. Once again a possibility of Vatican cooperation on a specific project has been refused , namely the proposal of the High Commissioner for refugees of the U.N. for a prayer for refugees to be used in all of the Churches . It should also be noted that for the first time the Vatican is officially represented on a permanent committee of the U.N., namely the Advisory Commission of the High Commissariat for Refugees .

(c) The position of the World Council in respect to public affairs has developed in an encouraging way . This is particularly true so far as our influence through the C.C.I.A. in the U.N. is concerned . Our representation is actually very small, only three persons, and does not in this respect compare with the representation of other voluntary agencies . The C.C.I.A. has , however, succeeded in making a considerable contribution to the U.N. and to the various delegations . It has not only rendered high service in putting the position of the Churches before the appropriate agencies of the U.N. but it has also performed a very significant pastoral service to individual delegates .

Recently the Ecumenical Commission on European Cooperation , which has been developed through the World Council staff , met in Germany to discuss the problem of re-armament , bringing together persons on both sides of the question . An unusually representative and influential group was brought together and worked out a constructive report in which the agreements and disagreements were clearly stated .

Finally the meeting with representatives of the World Peace Council has been useful . The content of the meeting was not very important inasmuch as little common ground was evident . The fact,however, that we met and gave evidence of our willingness to discuss has had a favourable influence on some parts of our membership .

(d) In conclusion , two important issues should be mentioned .

First , it would seem that in the World Council we have to deal with four worlds . It is true that there are other worlds , but these are at the moment especially relevant to our life, namely North America, Western Europe , Eastern Europe and Asia. If we lose real contact with any of these, we cease to be a world council and become only a partial

organisation and fellowship . We would probably al agree that these worlds are now growing away from each other, not only politically but at a deeper level . These worlds are not only different in outlook but appear not to be contemporary with each other . They live in different stages of history . It is not for us or perhaps for anyone to say which or any of them represents the future . It is, however, the great task of the World Council to keep ourselves aware and to make the Churches conscious of the relativity of each of these worlds . None of their ideologies and concerns can claim to have absolute value and all need, therefore, to be kept in living contact with each other.

Second the Church and the World Council will have to fight with increasing vigour for independence . Movements which try to woo the Church and pressures which play upon it, seek to rob it of its independence . It has been the genius of the ecumenical movement from the beginning to insist upon the independence of the Church and to provide that world setting in which the Churches discover the relativities of their respective situations and understand anew the abiding task of the Church . We must see to it that this function of the ecumenical movement is continued .

Brief discussion emphasised the need of careful and sympathetic attention to the development of the World's Evangelical Fellowship , a development which though not necessarily hostile to the World Council nevertheless presents very real problems for the ecumenical movement. It was reported that there is a possibility that the W.E.F. may work through the C.C.I.A. in its representations to the U.N.

6. Dr.Niemöller's Visit to Moscow

At the invitation of the Chairman, Dr.Niemöller reported as follows:

The invitation to visit Moscow was caused by my own initiative some time ago , in expressing a desire to visit the Church in Russia, and was extended through the Exarch for Western Europe , Archbishop Boris , in the name of the Patriarch .

The chief persons whom I saw may be briefly listed : The Patriarch, Archbishop Makarius , Metropolitan Nikolai , the Secretary to the Patriarch , the Minister of Religions Affairs for the Orthodox and the Minister of Religious Affairs for the non-Orthodox .

I visited Churches in Moscow, both Orthodox and Baptist , one of the academies and one of the seminaries . I also visited an art gallery in which Christian paintings were on display .

The basic question with which I went to Moscow was : is there really a Church there or only a propaganda instrument ? To put the matter another way , is the Russian Church a servant of Stalin first or of Christ first ? This , as it appeared to me, is the crucial point for the Church and for its ecumenical relations .

There are three main Churches in Russia . The first of course is the Russian Orthodox Church. My figures are from the Patriarch and indicate that in Moscow there are about 60 churches used normally and about 20,000 local churches throughout the U.S.S.R. The week-day services which I saw were well attended , mostly by women , with perhaps a seven to one ratio of women to men . There were no young people between the ages of 14 and 25, although a few children were in attendance.

More men and young people were in attendance during the Christmas services . The second Church is the Baptist Church, which numbers 3.2 million members . It differs from the Baptist Church as we know it , since it is composed of Baptists , Evangelicals and Pentecostals . I was asked to give greetings in one of the Baptist churches and found myself compelled by the great spiritual intensity of the congregation to preach at length to them . The congregation of 2,000 people listened with greater attention than I had seen even in the days of resistance in Germany . The third Church is the Lutheran Church , of which there are two denominations in the Baltic Provinces . I did not see any of them since there are none located in Moscow .

These Churches are not dying but are growing and are in a true sense living Churches . Twenty years ago there were 21 churches in Moscow , now there are 60 . Priests are of good cheer and are optimistic. The students whom I met in the seminary made a good impression and I was impressed that their attitude was somewhat like that of students in the illegal seminaries of Germany . I was surprised to find the Church so well-established , being told that , economically speaking , the Church is wealthier than ever through the voluntary gifts of its members . One Moscow priest indicated that his pay was from 6 - 9,000 roubles a month , which in relation to the value of bread would mean about $ 900 per month, but in relation to the value of textiles much less . He in fact apologised for being so wealthy and explained that he had six orphans living in his home . Church members are proud of this prosperity of their Church . The Church is, on the whole, a tolerated Church but not a favoured one. Priests in general seem to be though of as second-class people . No party member will enter a church. The Church seems to a great extent to be left to itself . There are two ministries in the Government , one for Orthodox and the other for non-Orthodox Churches , but in both cases a main preoccupation of the ministries is the supply of materials for the building and services of the Church . Separation from the State, however, does not mean freedom. The State clearly tries to use the Church , and today especially, for purposes of peace propaganda . This is the only outward sign of direct pressure except , of course , for the effect of the national laws , especially those prohibiting religious education up to the age of 18 and providing for an examination for those who , upon the age of 18 , enter a seminary .

How does the Church understand itself in relation to Stalin and Christ ? If you go by its words , it is of course a Christian Church . I believe ,however, it is also one in basic spirit . It is trying to serve Christ . As I talked with them , they were as interested in Church and religious questions as in politics and peace . The church service, of course, is a fixed liturgy into which no external elements can come . The priests seem to take it for granted that a Christian must be despised in this world. The Church is not favoured ahd does not want to be ; it is content to be separated from the State though the separation does not preclude being under Bolshevist influence . I discussed relations with the W.C.C. with the Patriarch and sensed a tone of regret on his part that the Russian Church is not a member . He did not discuss theological or ecclesiological questions but was more concerned over the problem of jurisdiction over the Russians in exile and over our dealing with them . I urged that his Church come and express his view on this matter within the ecumenical fellowship . He spoke of a lack of information and I gained the impression that although much has been sent, as we know, very little has reached the Patriarch .

On the whole I sensed a sincere sadness on his part about the impossibility of joining the World Council , almost a feeling that if they had the permission of the Government, they would be members .

The church leaders with whom I spoke showed the results of Bolshevist propaganda . They spoke of U.S. war-mongering . On one occasion I told them that I had been frequently and for long periods in the U.S. and that I was convinced that any U.S.millionaire would gladly give up his wealth and walk the streets in poverty if this would guarantee peace . I am sure that statement made an impression . They are under the impression that the World Council has financed the immigrant Churches . Nevertheless there remains a hunger for ecumenicity. And this exists among the Baptists as well as the Orthodox . I was asked to come to the altar during the Patriarch's Christmas Eve service . I was the first Protestant clergyman ever to set foot in the Lavra of Zagorsk and was greeted so formally . The Patriarch gave me a cross which he had had as an archimandrite . In many ways I consider these small signs to be the most important of all .

I met with the All Russian Peace Committee to speak with them about the possible return of war prisoners to Germany , hoping to convince them that the return of the war prisoners would greatly ease the present situation . My plea was a failure for the immediate reply was as to how I could expect the return of these few thousand when the Germans had killed 12 million Russians . There is no more answer to this question in Russia in 1952 than there was in the U.S. in 1946 . I replied to it by saying that I spoke not in reference to rights or to mercy but in respect of their own interest in peace and better understanding. Although I wanted to return to Germany after this meeting I was asked to stay to see the deputy minister of Foreign Affairs before whom I had an opportunity to explain my position at length and who promised that it would be given every consideration .

Prior to and during my trip my great anxiety was that the Press in Moscow would try to make useful propaganda out of my visit . I requested that no news reached the Moscow papers concerning my visit and accordingly there appeared in the Pravda only a personal note indicating that Pastor Niemöller and his daughter had arrived for a visit to the Patriarch .

The Russian world is <u>wholly different</u>. Dr.Visser 't Hooft spoke last night of the four worlds which are not contemporaneous with each other. This one feels very strongly in regard to the Russian world . It is even true that in Russia our sense of time almost loses its significance as does ones sense of space in contemplating the vast reaches of the Russian landscape . In this world there is the Russian man who for the time being is wearing a bolshevist cloak , but is the same eternal Russian man who previously wore the tsarist cloak . One thing of importance has happened to him and it may be illustrated by the fact that preaching is taking place in the Orthodox Churches . The sermon is coming back into the Russian service . The scientific rationalist element in Bolshevism has made people feel the need of more than they hear in hymns and see in the liturgical drama . Their brains also need nourishment. In this may be their salvation that the Word of God is being preached. We will of course have to question the content of that preaching at present but much of it is of central Christian truth. It may be that in this world which is so different from ours, which is not contemporary with ours , the Word of God may provide the basis of a grea solution .

The Bishop of Chichester expressed the gratitude of the Committee for his full and frank report and the following discussion ensued :

Dr.Nolde enquired as to whether there was in the concept of peace held by the Russian Church people the desire not only of avoiding full scale international war but also of avoiding those incidents especially internal revolution in other countries which create a situation demanding military action .

Dr.Niemöller rerlied that it was difficult to answer but that on the whole Russian church people , in distinction from the Bolshevists, were not interested in world revolution but did along with the Bolshevists desire to avoid a full scale world war. The problems of revolution, civil war , economic crises , etc. in other countries are really not seen by church people. Bishop Berggrav recorded his gratitude to Dr. Niemöller for the report and for the fact that he went to Moscow . Dr. Niemöller's report confirms the general impression held by Bishop Berggrav that within the structure of the Church in Russia there is a living Church . Nikolai's sermons for instance are of a very central Christian character , although they are almost wholly without reference to social responsibility . It is important for us to keep such personal contact with the Russian Church as Dr.Niemöller's, although unadvisable for the World Council as such to seek an official connection with the Patriarch at Moscow .

Bishop Oxnam asked whether the Russian Church is able to meet the educational impact of the State in such a way as is in any degree to offset the basic materialism of Russian ideology . Dr. Niemöller replied that a non-bloody revolution seems to have taken place in regard to spiritual life and that there is a rather simple psychological explanation for it. In Moscow I felt in a way lost in the sense that my own frame of spiritual life is narrow compared with the depth and range of the spirit of the Russian man . The rationalism in the Marxist system has been imposed upon this Russian soul and it cannot live merely upon a rationalist system . This is the cause of the failure of the former five years plans . The Russian soul has begun to reassure itself and one hunger of that soul is for religion . The very body of Lenin itself has become an ikon . The system in other words has had to adapt itself to the Russian spirit .

Dr.Niemöller replied to the comment of Bishop Berggrav by emphasising that he went to Moscow on his own initiative and did not consult the World Council of Churches expressly for the reason that he did not wish to involve the World Council in his visit .

Dr.Boegner asked what or who prevents the Russian Church from joining the World Council .

Dr.Niemöller replied that there was no explicit statement concerning this but that his impression is that all the contacts of the Church across the Russian frontier are under the observation and controll of the government . The visit would not have been possible if the government had felt that it would be harmful to its own interests .

Professor Alivisatos asked if mention had been made of cooperation with other Orthodox Churches and Dr.Niemöller replied that no mention had been made of this matter but that the normal prayers for the other Patriarchs had been included in the liturgy prayer .

Dr.Leiper asked concerning the real status of Archbishop Boris and Dr.Niemöller replied that since the visit was unquestionably a result of his own initiative, Archbishop Boris had acted as an intermediary in transmitting the invitation from the Patriarch .

Dr.Fry asked whether an invitation could be received by other people to visit Moscow and Dr.Niemöller replied any visitor who would be acceptable to the interests of Russian propaganda and that in this situation people who are representative of neither extreme positions but rather of mediating positions might be welcome .

Principal Taylor asked whether Dr.Niemöller had any answer to the question why the World Council had received no reply to its letters to the Patriarchate and Dr.Niemöller replied that no explicit information had been given at this point but that the general complaint was that little printed material had reached the Patriarchate . He hoped that in future more could be transmitted through Archbishop Boris .

Archimandrite Timiadis asked concerning the attitude of the Russian Church to other Orthodox Churches especially in reference to the attack which has been carried on by the Russian Church and specifically concerning the position of the Russian Church in regard to membership of the World Council of the Russians in exile .

Dr.Niemöller replied that he had explained to the Patriarch that the World Council could not be a judge of matters of jurisdiction among Orthodox Churches and such matters could best be discussed within the ecumenical fellowship .

Dr.Visser 't Hooft raised the question of a statement to the Press concerning Dr.Niemöller's report and it was agreed that the following statement should be released :

" Upon the request of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches Dr.Martin Niemöller gave a report of his recent visit to Moscow. He emphasised that he had gone to Moscow on his own responsibility and on the invitation of the Patriarchate of Moscow in order to get a personal impression of the situation of the Churches in Russia and to meet the Patriarch . He had been deeply impressed by the signs of spiritual vitality in both the Orthodox and the Protestant Churches and by their sense of spiritual fellowship with Christians in other parts of the world . His discussions with church leaders had given him an opportunity to explain the nature and purpose of the ecumenical movement .

The Executive Committee expressed appreciation for Dr.Niemöller's report and for the fact that through his visit a further personal contact had been made with Christians in Russia. "

7. Discussions with Eastern European Church Leaders

The Chairman indicated that suggestions had been made that a meeting at some suitable place take place between W.C.C. leaders and those of eastern European Churches, that perhaps a delegation might visit certain of the eastern European Churches , and that individual visits continue to be made .

No formal action was taken, but discussion indicated that the Committee in general favoured any feasible plan by which contact between leaders could be maintained .

8. Plans for the Second Assembly

(a) Advisory Commission on the Theme of the Assembly

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported that it is planned to have the second meeting of the Commission next summer . He requested that the Committee confirm the election of Dr.C.H.Dodd to the Commission , and proposed that Dr.John A.Mackay be elected to the Commission . It was

AGREED : to confirm the election of Dr.C.H.Dodd and to elect Dr.John A.Mackay, to the Advisory Commission on the Theme of the Assembly .

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported that a number of letters had come from Churches and individuals , including a formal overture from the Presbyterian Church in the United States, concerning the theme of the Assembly. Most of these letters urge the inclusion of the word "Risen" in the theme . Inasmuch as the wording of the theme has been left to the Central Committee , no action is required at this time .

(b) Race Relations Commission

Mr.Bilheimer reported that considerable conversation and correspondence had indicated the desirability of enlarging and somewhat redefining the statement concerning the task of the race section which the Committee had adopted in 1951, and presented a proposal to this end . After discussion and some modification , it was

AGREED to adopt the following statement defining the work of the Commission on Race for the Second Assembly :

" The Section on Race at the Second Assembly should deal with the general question : ' How can the Church contribute to the correction of racial prejudice and injustice ' . To phrase the general question of the section in this fashion is to distinguish its task from the task simply of defining a Christian position on race , or of analysing the race problem sociologically, although both of these will be involved . Moreover, this question directs the attention of the Assembly to what can concretely be done in reference to this problem .

Under this general head, at least the following areas should be dealt with :

1. How can the message of the Gospel be presented so as to affect the deep springs of race prejudice ?

2. How should the Christian Church deal with race within its own membership ? What import should the Churches attach to questions affecting racial and ethnic homogeneity within the Churches ? How can the Church - in the congregation , in the nation , and in the world - so exemplify Christian conviction concerning race as to contribute toward the alleviation of injustice ?

3. How may the Christian community utilize and cooperate with government and other secular agencies in the alleviation of racial injustice ?

It will be noted that each of these questions will involve both analysis ans solution .

> (The term "race" is used in this statement primarily with reference to color and ethnic origin. It is not, however, intended to bring within the scope of this Commission the question of anti-semitism, which , while including ethnic factors, involves other and broader issues. Particular discussion of the Jewish question , in its several bearings, belongs to a different section of the Assembly's work.) "

(c) Allocation of places

After a protracted discussion and work by a sub-committee of the meeting it was

AGREED to adopt provisionally the allocation indicated on the attached table (see Appendix I), and in accord with the instructions of the Central Committee , to confer as to its adequacy with national councils and with confessional bodies , with a view to final action by the Executive Committee in the summer of 1952 .

(d) Arrangements in Chicago

Bishop Oxnam presented recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Conference of USA Member Churches concerning events in Chicago in connection with the Assembly and it was

AGREED that a proposal be authorised to the Theological Faculties Union of Chicago that it establish a School of Ecumenics for ministers in the summer of 1954 prior to but in connection with the Second Assembly of the W.C.C. . This invitation should include the provision that the School be planned jointly with the Conference of U.S.A. Member Churches, and organised and promoted by the Theological Faculties Union or such group as the seminaries concerned may set up ; that regular consultation with the W.C.C.C. be provided as the plans for the School are developed; that the offices of the W.C.C. be offered in securing faculty from among those coming to the Assembly and in promoting the School ; and that such financial backing as may be necessary for the School be found locally and outside the budget of the Assembly .

AGREED to authorise the creation of a committee by the Conference of U.S.A. Member Churches and the Church Federation of Greater Chicago for the purpose of organising a mass meeting of suitable character in Soldiers Field on the evening of Sunday, August 15th, 1954. It is further recommended that this authorisation carry the following provisions :

(a) that plans for the general character of the meeting be developed subject to the approval of the parent bodies of the joint committ

(b) that the total plan be subject to the securing of sufficient funds locally, outside the budget of the Assembly, to insure the effectiveness and success of the meeting , and that in this connection particular attention be paid to the securing of adequate technical assistance in planning the meeting , adequate staff in organising and promoting it, and adequate budget for promotion .

AGREED to authorise a proposal to the Ravinia Festival Association that a special concert be given on an evening during the week of August 15 - 22, 1954, for the Assembly and the public at Ravinia, and that this concert, to consist of Christian symphonic and choral music, be planned and organised by the Ravinia Festival Association . This proposal should express the hope that the July 1954 programme of concerts at Ravinia might include works of Christian symphonic music , with notes included in the programme of the concert concerned indicating that this music is rendered in connection with the coming of the Assembly of the W.C.C.

AGREED to authorise a proposal to the Chicago Art Institute that it arrange in connection with the Assembly for a loan exhibition of Christian art , to be open prior to the Assembly as well as during it, on the understanding that the general character of the exhibition would be developed by the Art Institute in consultation with the W.C.C. and that the exhibition would be organised by the Art Institute., The proposal should include the understanding that funds required for the exhibition should be provided locally , outside the budget of the Assembly .

(e) Entry of delegates into the U.S.A.

Bishop Oxnam reported that the Executive Committee of the Conference of U.S.A. Member Churches had considered this matter , and had felt that it was unwise to open it in a definite way with US government officials until after the US elections .

Dr.Visser 't Hooft stated that in his view the real problem would be whether various countries concerned would permit the delegates to leave. But this problem would also arise , if we would meet elsewhere. At the same time we must remember the strong ecumenical reasons for having the Assembly in the U.S.A.

Brief discussion indicated the general agreement of the Committee with the statements of Bishop Oxnam and Dr.Visser 't Hooft , no definite action being taken .

(f) Visitors at the Assembly

Mr.Bilheimer reported the desirability of a provisional statement concerning visitors at the Assembly . Two views had been generally expressed . On the one hand , there were those who hoped that there would be very few visitors in order that the Assembly be more free . On the other hand , there were those who hoped that a large number of visitors would be present, as a means of spreading interest in the W.C.C. The building in which we shall meet will be large and will not in itself limit the number of visitors who could attend -

After discussion it was

AGREED to send an inquiry to the Churches asking their opinion as to the desirability of providing for accredited visitors , to be appointed by the Churches , to pay the registration fee and receive the Assembly literature . This inquiry should indicate what portions of the programme , namely the plenary sessions , would be open to the visitors , and also indicate that the evening meetings will be open to the general public .

(g) Assembly budget.(See Report of the Finance Committee and Appendix 2)

9. Sub-Committee on the Basis of the W.C.C.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft presented a report of progress which had been sent by the Convener of the sub-Committee , Dr.Douglas Horton, commenting that much had been written concerning the Basis, including articles , books , and many letters. The sub-committee would hold a meeting in Sweden in August . It was hoped that members of the Executive would express their convictions on this subject in letters to the sub-committee .

10. Applications for membership

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported two applications for membership , the Church of the Province of West Africa (Anglican), and the Russian Orthodox Church in the United States . After discussion it was

AGREED to request the General Secretary to put these applications for membership before the Central Committee with full information concerning the Churches involved .

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported a request from the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America that the Southern and Northern Provinces of that Church should together be regarded as one member Church . After discussion it was

AGREED to inquire of both provinces of the Moravian Church of America as to whether they wish to be treated henceforth as one member Church of the W.C.C., and if so , to regard the matter as settled ; but if not, to direct that the matter be placed before the Central Committee .

11. Relationship with the International Missionary Council

Dr.Visser 't Hooft indicated that much discussion had taken place since the Rolle meeting of the Central Committee , occasioned both by the basic principles suggested in the document "The Calling of the Church to Mission and to Unity" , and in particular by the last paragraph of the document suggesting a re-thinking of the relationship between the I.M.C. and W.C.C. Discussion had taken place in Britain, on the Continent and in the U.S.A. and Canada, in the latter area attention being directed more to the organisational problems involved rather than to the basic issues raised . As a result of the total discussion , it does not seem that the time is ripe to discuss integration of the two bodies , first because discussion on the basic principles has not yet led to sufficient clarification , and second because the organisational problems are so very large and complex . Moreover, we have not yet exhausted the possibilities of association . Our present joint action in the C.C.I.A. and the East Asia Secretariat, suggests that we might collaborate in other areas such as study , the work of women in the church , interchurch aid, etc. It would seem wise for the Joint Committee to direct its attention to the expansion of such forms of association .

Mr.Goodall, at the invitation of the chairman , expressed agreement with the General Secretary, stating that organisational problems must be settled in the light of agreement concerning basic principles , and that this agreement had not yet been reached . Within the I.M.C. the "Rolle" statement had been sent to the constituent councils for study and comment.

The Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council in the U.S.A., the Conference of British Missionary Societies and the British Council of Churches had undertaken to study the document . In Britain there was a minimum of interest in organisational questions , and a very large interest in the underlying issues involved . To the necessity of increasing association, the sense of urgency which we felt at Rolle should be always added .

The discussion indicated the general agreement of the Committee that the W.C.C. representatives in the Joint Committee should follow the policy outlined in these statements .

12. Faith and Order

Mr.Oliver Tomkins reported progress in the preparations for the Lund Conference . At present 165 delegates have been appointed from 63 Churches ; 20 additional Churches have agreed to send delegates but have not yet named them , 53 places being involved . Some 50-60 Churches have not responded , these all being small and distant Churches. From them we may perhaps expect some 20-30 delegates.

The most important business , however, concerns the organisation and function of Faith and Order after Lund . A good discussion of the matter at the last meeting of the Executive Committee of Faith and Order was followed by a joint meeting of representatives of Faith and Order and the Committee on Structure and Functioning . The recommendations of this meeting are presented to this Executive Committee for approval , after which they shall be put before the Lund Conference .

Archbishop Brilioth, commenting upon the recommendations , indicated that in the discussion as to whether Faith and Order should be more autonomous or more integrated, the decision had been for integration . He indicated that following the action of the Lund Conference on the recommendations , they would be presented to the Central Committee at Lucknow .

After discussion, in which small changes in wording were proposed, the statement was

APPROVED in the following form :

"Faith and Order" after the Lund Conference .

Functions

(a) To proclaim the essential oneness of the Church of Christ and to keep prominently before the World Council and the Churches the obligation to manifest that unity ;

(b) to study questions of doctrine and worship, and other problems, in their bearing on the unity of the Church ;

(c) to study the theological implications of the existence of the ecumenical movement in all its aspects including the doctrine of the Church ;

(d) to study matters in the present relationships of the Churches to one another which cause difficulties and need theological clarification ;

(e) to provide information concerning actual steps taken by the Churches towards reunion .

Organisation

(i) World Conferences on Faith and Order are to be held when main subjects are ready for submission to the Churches , and when , on recommendation of the Commission on Faith and Order, the Central Committee so decides .

(ii) The Commission on Faith and Order shall consist of 80 members nominated to the Central Committee by the Lund Conference with power to nominate additional members up to the number of 20 , all these to hold office until the next Assembly of the World Council at which the list of membership shall be revised on the basis of nominations made by the Commission.

(iii) The Commission shall meet normally every three years but may be called together at any time when major theological commission reports need to be reviewed by a larger body than the Working Committee .

(iv) The Commission shall nominate , for appointment by the Central Committee , a Working Committee of about 25 members. The Working Committee shall normally meet annually and shall be responsible (a) for administration , (b) for directing the study work and other activities of Faith and Order and (c) for co-operation with other agencies such as the Study Department of the World Council .

(v) There shall be various theological commissions on special topics set up by the Commission or Working Committee . Membership of these theological commissions need not be confined to membership of the Commission or Working Committee .

13. Membership of the Central Committee

(a) Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported that Bishop Arne Fjellbu had been nominated to the Central Committee by the Church of Norway, and it was

AGREED to invite Bishop Fjellbu to the Central Committee meeting at Lucknow for appointment as a member of the Committee .

(b) In reference to a successor to Commissioner Cunningham, it was

AGREED to ask Mr.Oliver Tomkins to discuss this matter with the Salvation Army .

14. Visit to South Africa

Dr.Visser 't Hooft explained the plans for his visit to South Africa in April and May, and asked for guidance of the Committee . Discussion indicated the desire of the Committee that he should visit the different types of Churches in South Africa ,that he should study the question of membership of additional Churches , and that upon his return

he should be free to report informally concerning his visit, and that a full report should be presented to the Central Committee . The general terms of reference for the visit should be the action of the Central Committee at Toronto . It was reported that Dr.Boegner would visit South Africa also , in his capacity as President of the French Protestant Federation , and that Bishop Lilje would visit a church in South Africa related to his own Church . The Committee expressed its confidence in the General Secretary, and its best wishes to him in this difficult mission .

15. Commission on the Life and Work of Women in the Church

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported that after the return of Miss Chakko to India, Mrs. Kathleen Bliss had been serving the Committee, on a part time basis. The report "The Status and Service of Women in the Churches", is to be published by the S.C.M.Press this month. It represents the first world-wide report on this subject. In addition a brochure on the issues involved in the relationship between men and women had been developed as a result of the meeting called by the Commission in September and is also available . The Commission will meet in September at Oxford, to consider especially the follow up of both publications and the next steps of the Commission's work especially in regard to the Assembly .

16. Interchurch Aid

Dr.Mackie reported that the Department had ended the year in a satisfactory financial position , and that of a total of $ 630,000 , $ 70,000, somewhat more than expected, had been contributed by Churches outside of the U.S.A. He indicated that a major problem involved continuing help to the Orthodox in Western Europe, who have up to now been helped through the service to refugees, but for whom help must now be found in the general framework of interchurch aid .

Notable developments have taken place with regard to refugees , centering principally in the closing of I.R.O., and the cooperation between the Department and the C.C.I.A. on the one hand and the High Commissioner for Refugees of the U.N. and the agency created by the Brussels Conference on the problem of migration on the other hand . The confidence of both agencies is high , and funds are forthcoming which place a heavy responsibility upon the Department . Problems of hard core refugees in different parts of the world are especially pressing . Beyond this, the Palestinian refugee problem has been vigorously pursued, with the result that intergovernmental funds are now also available for this purpose . The influence of the Beirut Conference on Palestinian Refugees has been considerable, both in governmental circles and among voluntary agencies . The Department will in the future have to consider new areas of work , especially the function of the Churches in reference to migration , and to the needs of Korea . Relations with the I.M.C. are of great importance at this point .

The Committee expressed its high sense of appreciation to the Department and Dr. Mackie for its work .

It was pointed out that the expansion of the Department's interests into new fields would make it necessary to present a full statement of the principles and work involved to the Central Committee at Lucknow .

17. Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Dr.Grubb reported for the C.C.I.A. on the following matters :

The discussion with the World Peace Council had indicated a deep difference of assumptions and therefore of approach and conclusions . On the whole,the W.C.C. representatives appeared more objective and better informed . The fact of the meeting indicated openness of mind on the part of the W.C.C., which had had a constructive influence upon certain parts of our membership .

Slow progress is being made in reference to Assembly study , and an inquiry is in process regarding a proposed outline for discussion at the Assembly , and regarding the effect and value of the report of Section IV at Amsterdam .

It is with regret that announcement must be made of the resignation of Baron van Asbeck , President of the C.C.I.A., owing to reasons of health . Also , the C.C.I.A. suffers loss in the protracted illness of Miss Wyckoff, documentation officer in New York .

The Chairman read Baron Van Asbeck's letter of resignation , and it was

AGREED to express the profound regret of the Committee that Baron Van Asbeck has had to resign as President of the C.C.I.A., and to request the Executive Committee of the C.C.I.A. to make an appropriate recommendation concerning his successor in due course .

Dr.Nolde reported on the work of the C.C.I.A. during the Paris meeting of the Sixth Session of the Assembly of the U.N. He indicated that , in preparation for the day by day representations of the C.C.I.A. at the UN, a comprehensive document has been prepared showing the position of the Churches in regard to the various items of the U.N.agenda, and that a list of the delegates to the U.N. had been prepared showing the background of each , especially in reference to Church membership . In addition to himself , Mr.Rees of the Department of Interchurch Aid had been at Paris throughout the session , and Mr.Morrison for the period of the debate on Arab refugees . Headquarters had been maintained in Paris . Mrs.Nolde as a press representative had been able to give valuable assistance .

Inasmuch as a detailed and comprehensive report of the work done at Paris is being prepared by the C.C.I.A., it is noted here only that Dr.Nolde reported to the Committee concerning the question of reduction of armaments , Arab refugees , the High Commissioner for Refugees , and the Peace Observation Commission for the Balkans .

Dr.Nolde spoke in conclusion of the danger of becoming a top-heavy organisation. in which the officers through force of circumstances are forced to make decisions and representations of which the constituency is ignorant . It is therefore very necessary to expand the facilities of the C.C.I.A. for interpreting its work to the Churches .

18. Plans for the Central Committee

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported that local arrangements for the meeting at Lucknow were proceeding well .

The most serious problem is that of attendance of Central Committee members . Thirty nine members are fairly certain of attending , the

list being very representative. This number includes regular members and officially appointed substitutes . It is however of the utmost importance that a quorum (that is 43 voting members) be in attendance . General attendance at the meeting will be completed by three other categories of persons :

- representatives of member Churches not now represented on the Central Committee . The Rules indicate that they must come at their own expense , and we must decide as to whether this is to be interpreted literally , especially in the light of the desirability of persons from that part of the world being in attendance .

- Some Churches have asked about missionaries attending. Our rule is that they cannot be official substitutes . Should we make any exceptions , and if not , can we have

- consultants ? We have had a very few ; should we have more ?

In regard to agenda , it would seem to be too early to fix the subjects for dicsussion now , and it is proposed that this be determined by the August meeting of the Executive Committee .

After discussion , it was

AGREED that the first claim on financial assistance be to Central Committee members from Asia , and that in the second instance help be given to representatives from member Churches , not members of the Central Committee , it being understood that in the light of the special circumstances of the meeting an exception to the rule is being made in this respect ; and that the General Secretary is to have discretion in alloting funds up to $ 6000 to secure adequate representation .

AGREED that the General Secretary be asked to send an urgent letter to Central Committee members requesting their attendance in Lucknow if at all possible .

AGREED to invite 10 consultants who shall be from Asia, and if needed , to give the Chairman and the General Secretary power to add to this number up to a total of 15 ; and to request the General Secretary to report on this matter to the Executive Committee in August .

After discussion and upon the recommendation of Bishop Oxnam , it was

AGREED to invite accredited visitors to the meeting to the extent of space available .

After discussion and upon the recommendation of Archbishop Brilioth it was

AGREED to recommend to Miss Chakko that she explore the possibility of arranging for a special consultation with Indian leaders .

The General Secretary and Dr.Ehrenström reported that a study conference had been planned for Dec. 27-29, at Lucknow, to deal with the subjects of the next Assembly . Dr.Manikam has been developing plans for the conference with the N.C.C. of India ; a total attendance of 25 - 30 is hoped for . After discussion , it was

AGREED to approve of the project of the Study Department Committee to arrange , in conjunction with the meeting of the Central Committee in Lucknow , a study conference on the Evanston programme in relation to Asian Christianity, and to authorize the Study Department , in cooperation with the General Secretariat , to undertake the necessary preparations .

19. Staff journeys

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported plans for his journey to the United States and South America an route to South Africa , and to Ethiopia en route back to Geneva .

20. Meeting of the Executive Committee in August

After discussion , it was

AGREED that in view of small attendance , the Executive Committee in August will devote itself mainly to routine matters and plans for the Central Committee in Lucknow , emergency matters to be considered only if necessary ; and further , to accept proxies only at the discretion of the Chairman .

21. The Ecumenical Review

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported that , according to the table attached (Appendix 3) the Ecumenical Review had become self-supporting for the first time, it being recognised that staff salaries are not charged against the Review. He reported also that in the U.S.A. , the idea of soliciting gift subscriptions for theological students had taken hold rather well .

Archbishop Brilioth expressed appreciation to Dr.Visser 't Hooft for his editorship of the magazine .

Dr.Leiper raised a question concerning the colour of the magazine cover , and it was generally agreed that the matter should be explored.

22. Meaning of the word "ecumenical"

The Bishop of Chichester commented upon the tendency to use the word "ecumenical" loosely , and called attention to the book by Professor Zander . The Ecumenical Movement from an Orthodox Point of View, which calls attention to the frequent wrong use of the word to denote interchurch courtesy, when it actually refers to the fullness of the Church of Christ .

Dr.Floyd Tomkins called attention to the opinion of many in the Protestant Episcopal Church that the word should be used sparingly because of the fact that the Church of Rome is outside of our present fellowship .

23. Study Department

Dr.Ehrenström reported briefly on the work of the Study Department, indicating that the studies on the Bible , Responsible Society and Evangelism , though progressing slowly, have now taken on a definite focus in the preparations for Evanston . The book issuing from the

Biblical Studies , the result of several years work, has been published by the S.C.M.Press and by the Westminster Press in the U.S.A. Surveys in connection with the studies on evangelism for France and Holland are available, and prospective surveys for the U.S.A. and India are in process . A service of background information on Communism in connection with the studies on the responsible society has met with a wide and favourable response . The Ecumenical Commission for Cooperation in Europe has met three times and been very fruitful .

Mr.Bilheimer reported that as a result of negotiations with the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., the services of Mr.James P.Alter, missionary in India , would be loaned to the Study Department by the Presbyterian Church for a period of two years, primarily for work in Asia in connection with the Assembly . Expenses for Mr.Alter had been included in the Assembly budget . It was accordingly

AGREED that the Executive Committee express its appreciation to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and invite Mr.Alter to join the staff of the Study Department for two years , on the understanding that his salary would be provided by the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and his expenses by the Assembly budget .

24. Report of the Committee on Structure and Functioning

Dr.Cooke,chairman of the Committee , reported that the Committee, after careful preparationy work had met in Geneva in December, and that it had directed its attention to four areas :

- the structure of the governing bodies
- the departmental structure
- the relations with other world organisation
- office organisation .

He indicated that in two areas discussions are delicate at the moment. Faith and Order is itself discussing its own future , and this affects the work of the Committee on Structure and Functioning ; the relations between the I.M.C. and W.C.C. are under renewed discussion as a result of the Rolle meeting of the Central Committee .

The Committee did not feel itself bound by the decisions of the Amsterdam Assembly, because its report will be considered by the Second Assembly which will have freedom to act as it sees fit . Changes contemplated have been considered within the present budget level .

The report which the Committee desired to present at this stage was only a provisional report. The final report would be presented to the Central Committee at its meeting in India. The Committee would meet again in June and in October . In the present stage of its work the Committee desired to consult the Executive Committee concerning the main principles which it had elaborated .

Dr.Cooke then presented the recommendations of the Committee concerning the structure of the governing bodies . These were discussed and certain modification to be considered by the Commission in drawing up its final report were proposed . The further sections on the departmental structure , on relationships with other bodies and on office organisation were dealt with in the same manner .

I It was AGREED that the name of Dr.Kenneth Grubb be added to the list of consultants of the Committee on Structure and Functioning.

25. Staff-matters

On behalf of the sub-committee on staff matters Dr.Fry submitted the following recommendations :

(a) that Mlle Madeleine Barot be invited to join the staff as Secretary of the Commission on the Life and Work of Women in the Church with the understanding that she will assume her new duties toward the end of the year .

This was APPROVED .

(b) that Mr.Robert Nelson , whose appointment has been proposed by the Executive Committee of "Faith and Order", be invited to join the staff as Secretary for "Faith and Order" with the understanding that he will assume his duties in the summer of 1953 .

This was APPROVED .

(c) that , subject to the approval of the Administrative Committee of the Department of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees , Dr.Charles Leber be invited to join the staff as Secretary of the Department of Interchurch Aid .

This was APPROVED .

(d) that Dr.R.C.Mackie be asked to serve as Acting General Secretary when the General Secretary is absent from headquarters .

This was APPROVED

(e) that Mr.Carrillo de Albornoz be asked to serve as a research-scholar during two years and that the special gift offered for this purpose be accepted .

This was APPROVED

(f) that the salaries of these newly appointed be decided by Bishop Oxnam , Dr.Koechlin and the General Secretary .

26. Report of the Finance Sub-Committee

Bishop Oxnam presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee.

A. Actual Revenue and Expenditure in 1951

The provisional figures for 1951 suggested that the final accounts for 1951 would show a surplus of about $14,000. On the revenue side contributions from member Churches were expected to total some $302,000, an increase of some $28,000 over the 1950 figure, and some $39,000 would be drawn from the Rockefeller Fund for the Ecumenical Institute, or $11,000 less than allowed for in the budget, since the Institute under-spent by that amount. Total revenue was thus expected to be some $341,000. Expenditure was expected to be some $327,000 or $25,500 below the approved level. Apart from the under-expenditure of $11,000 by the Institute, mentioned above and explained by the fact that Bossey was closed for transformations during most of last year, the following main factors were mentioned:

(a) the Churches of Switzerland raised special funds totalling some $3,000 for the travel subsidies needed for the 1951 Central Committee meeting, and relieved the General Secretariat of that expense.

(b) Since Miss Chakko resigned as Secretary for Women's Work, Mrs Bliss had been acting as part-time secretary with a resultant saving in salary costs.

(c) The Ecumenical Review, for the first time, had sufficient subscription revenue to cover all direct costs and there was therefore no charge to the budget, against the provision of $1,500 for subsidy to the Review.

(d) In both Study and Youth Departments, the full provision for travel and meetings was not used.

On the other hand:

(e) The General Secretariat, New York, budget was overspent by some $1,700 as had been forecast in the monthly statement for September; this resulted mainly from expenses connected with the removal of the offices.

(f) Only two other departments (Youth, New York, and Evangelism) showed an over-expenditure and the amounts were insignificant in those cases.

On the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee agreed to adopt the following suggestions regarding the allocation of the final surplus, subject to ratification by the Central Committee:

(i) to cover the 1951 deficit of the Ecumenical Press Service	$ 865
(ii) to restore the provision for the General Reserve in 1951 to $20,000	4,000
(iii) to avoid drawing on the Assembly Budget for that part of the subsidy to C.C.I.A. which at Bièvres it was decided might be charged to that Budget	2,500
(iv) to the Assembly Reserve to cover the cost of the meeting in July 1951 of the Preparatory Commission on the Main Theme for the Second Assembly	4,500

(v) any final surplus after the above allocation totalling $11,865 to be added to the General Reserve

The effect of the foregoing recommendations would be to raise the Assembly Reserve at the end of 1951 to $54,500, against which expenses totalling only $4,500 had been incurred and to raise the General Reserve to some $75,000 plus any final surplus under (v) above.

B. Ecumenical Press Service Accounts for 1951

The provisional figures indicated a deficit of some $865 on E.P.S. for 1951. It was disappointing that the accounts again showed a deficit but it was nonetheless true that the results were in close agreement with the forecasts made in January 1951. Subscription income was almost the forecast Frs 16,000; some saving had been effected on the expenditure side; twelve months previously it had been said that to avoid a deficit, it seemed necessary to raise the W.C.C. subsidy to $3,000 but it had been recommended that it be raised only to $2,000, since various other steps were then planned to close the gap. The endeavours then made to secure additional or increased contributions had been unsuccessful; contributions from other sponsoring bodies were the same in 1951 as in 1950. It had not been possible to secure an increase in subscriptions; in so far as EPS succeeds in getting its material used by the religious press, its value to individual subscribers is reduced and this paradoxical financial problem is experienced for example in Switzerland. Some reduction in expenses had proved possible, however, so that the deficit was a little less than the $1,000 which might otherwise have been expected.

The Sub-Committee had discussed the value and importance of E.P.S. and had agreed, as indicated under A above, to recommend that the deficit be covered from the 1951 surplus on the World Council General Budget. The Sub-Committee had further agreed to leave unchanged at $2,000 the amount of the World Council subsidy to E.P.S. for 1952.

C. 1952 Budget

The 1952 budget adopted by the Central Committee meeting at Rolle in August 1951 had totalled $360,000. A suggested level of expenditure had been submitted to the Finance Sub-Committee totalling $356,000 and revenue prospects had been reported as being $352,500 to $355,000, including $45,000 from the Rockefeller Fund for the Ecumenical Institute and the balance from member Churches.

The Finance Sub-Committee had considered in detail the proposals submitted. On the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee, recalling that similar action had been taken in 1951 to provide some flexibility and in recognition of the fact that some economies would prove possible during the year, even though it is difficult to forecast in January exactly where they will be possible, the Executive Committee AGREED:

that the revised level of expenditure totalling $356,000 (see Appendix 4a-4b) be approved as a basis of operations until the August meeting of available members of the Executive, on the understanding that in practice expenditure will be limited to a level of not more than $353,500.

D. Department of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees

The 1951 operations under the Service Programme were expected to close without deficit on any of the four sections: Service to Refugees, Health, Scholarships and Administration. The first estimates indicated an expenditure of some $468,000 on the Refugee Service, as compared with a budget of $450,000, and some under-expenditure by comparision with budget on the other three parts of the programme. Since sufficient revenue was not received, no expenditure was incurred on "Emergency Inter-Church Aid in Europe", for which $50,000 were granted in the budget. As a result total expenditure was forecast at some $632,000 against a total budget of $700,000. And, as already mentioned, the final revenue was expected to be slightly higher.

The Sub-Committee had been informed that the position had been reviewed by the Administrative Committee of the Department and that that Committee had also examined the need for fixed reserves for the Service Programme sufficient to cover adequately all outstanding obligations in case the necessity should arise for the sudden liquidation of any individual operation. The Sub-Committee had felt that a general reserve should be fixed for the total Service Programme rather than a specific reserve for each part of the programme, as had been suggested by the Administrative Committee of the Department; this was felt to be more reasonable in view of the fact that an important part of the gifts for the Service Programme is now received without designation to particular sections of that programme. On the facts reported, it seemed that a minimum over-all reserve of some $100,000 would be desirable and it was noted that total reserves at end 1951 would amount to some $80-90,000.

The Sub-Committee had noted with satisfaction that in all respects, the financial position of the Department was stronger than it had been at any time since the Amsterdam Assembly and that, though the reserve position was not fully satisfactory, further improvement was to be sought in 1952.

The proposed Service Programme budget for 1952 amounted to $650,000, or the same total as that to which provisional approval had been given by the Central Committee at Rolle in August 1951.

On the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee the Executive Committee AGREED,

that the proposed Service Programme budget of the Department of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees for 1952 totalling $650,000 (see Appendix 5) be approved as a basis of operations until the meeting of available members of the Executive in August 1952.

E. Report of ad hoc Headquarters' Salaries Committee

The ad hoc Headquarters' Salaries Committee had reported to the Finance Sub-Committee that certain questions, namely those of health and accident insurance, revision of the list of grades and salary scales and removal expenses and settling in allowances were still under consideration and that a report would be submitted in August. It was recalled that in 1951 authority had been given as a provisional measure to the General Secretariat to grant up to $3,000 in total in personal aid to staff members financially embarrassed by exceptional medical expenses in 1951. Grants totalling some $1,750 had been made during 1951 and the Sub-Com-

mittee agreed that this measure should be continued and noted that appropriate provision had been made in the 1952 budget. As regards the Provident Fund, no change in the financial basis was proposed but it was reported that it was intended to suggest to the Provident Fund that insurance should be made compulsory for married personnel.

The ad hoc Headquarters' Salaries Committee had received information regarding salary levels and conditions of employment in London and New York and, on their recommendation, the Sub-Committee had agreed that in principle those conditions should be, in general, the same as those applied by the British Council of Churches and other Christian bodies in London and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the U.S. Conference of Member Churches and other Christian bodies in New York respectively. The Sub-Committee was informed that the British Council of Churches had decided to grant, as From January 1, 1952, certain salary increases and the Sub-Committee had agreed that corresponding increases should be made in respect of the London office staff.

The Executive Committee received this report and AGREED to the recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee.

F. Reconstruction and Transformation of Château de Bossey

The Building Committee had reported to the Sub-Committee regarding this matter. Dr Koechlin had reported that he had looked into the matter when in Geneva early in October, 1951, and had been informed that the work was progressing well, though with certain delay. In December he and Dr Cooke had been in Geneva and had taken the opportunity to review the position again. At that time they had been informed that it had been found that actual costs would exceed the previous estimates by some Frs. 43,000; the local authorities had insisted on the re-making or the closing of the chimneys and wages and prices had increased. The work was so far advanced that no action could be taken to reduce the total expenditure. It had, however, been found possible to secure a further grant from the Friends of the World Council in the U.S.A. sufficient to make good the loss suffered on the sale of the securities received from Mr John D. Rockefeller Jr. and to raise the available funds from about $274,000 to $284,000, or the full amount which the gift had been intended to provide. This additional help would make it possible to cover the over-expenditure and leave available Frs. 159,000 for the erection of the chapel and for the maintenance reserve as compared with Frs. 148,000 per the estimates available at the time of the Central Committee meeting at Rolle.

Dr Koechlin had reported that he had visited Bossey on January 30th and that in his judgment a very fine piece of work had been done. The new buildings provided excellent accommodation without being in any sense luxurious and he thought the new buildings would offer great advantages from the point of view of future operations of the Institute.

The Building Committee had received a report during the present meetings that the Board of the Institute had adopted new plans for the chapel and that the provisional estimate of the cost of the new plans was Frs. 61,000, or Frs. 65,000 including provision for essential furnishings. The plans adopted by the Board had been studied by the Building Committee and considered highly satisfactory. The estimate of costs, however, exceeded the previous estimates. Thus the adoption of the plan would involve a reduction to less than Frs. 100,000

of the final balance available for a maintenance reserve. Furthermore the latest reports indicated that there was again a probability that final expenses would exceed the previously available estimates.

The Building Committee had been gravely concerned and disappointed at the successive reports of over-spending, but the work had now advanced to the stage at which no decision could be taken which would reduce expense. Furthermore the Building Committee was of the opinion that the completion of the plan for a chapel at Bossey was essential, even though the effect would be to reduce the amount available for maintenance reserve.

On the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee AGREED:

> that the Building Committee be authorised to approve the final plans for the building of the chapel when available, provided that the final estimate of costs does not exceed the maximum figure fixed by the Finance Sub-Committee.

G. Appointment of Auditors for New York Office

The Finance Committee had considered the above matter and the proposal received from New York and on their recommendation the Executive Committee AGREED, in accordance with the direction given by the Central Committee at its meeting in Rolle:

> that Messrs. Requa, Burkhardt and Scheel, 489 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, be appointed to audit the accounts of the New York office of the World Council for 1951.

H. Budget for the 1954 World Assembly

The Sub-Committee had received and considered a suggested budget for the 1954 Assembly, which had been prepared in detail and with considerable care. The budget as presented indicated total expenditure of $248,000 and available revenue of $152,500, leaving an amount of $95,500 still to be found in additional revenue.

The Sub-Committee had examined the budget in detail and considered it to represent the best estimate that could be made two years in advance. After careful consideration, the Sub-Committee had felt able to recommend approval of the budget as presented on all items save one, namely that for travel subsidies for delegates and consultants. There had been provided under this heading an amount of $40,000 comprising $25,000 contributed by North Western University to cover additional travel costs resulting from the holding of the Assembly at Evanston rather than on the East Coast and $15,000 for subsidies for the travel of delegates from distant or economically weak Churches. The Sub-Committee had given considerable thought to this item. It had been concluded that the item of $15,000 would be inadequate even if help was sought from Foreign Mission Boards and similar bodies for the travel of individuals in whom they were particularly interested. Following the discussion the Sub-Committee had AGREED to recommend that the following principles should be adopted regarding the granting of travel subsidies:

that the attention of member Churches be directed to the basic principle that each member Church is normally responsible for the travel expenses of its delegates to the Assembly. Provision for travel subsidies, however, should be included in the budget along the following lines:

(a) That in the exceptional currency circumstances of the world there is need to include in the budget provision of $25,000 for travel from the U.S.A. coast to Evanston for those delegates who, for currency reasons, are unable to meet that expense.

(b) That $34,500 be provided in the budget to assist in the travel expenses to the U.S.A. of delegates, especially from the Orient, Africa and the Near East, who would otherwise be unable to come.

(c) That authority be granted for appeals to be made, after consultation with the member Churches involved, to foreign missionary or other agencies within the Churches or to confessional bodies for direct aid to individual delegates, especially of the same confession, coming primarily from the Orient, Africa and the Near East.

The Sub-Committee had further agreed that since under the present plan the general reserve should amount to some $120,000 by the end of 1953 it should be planned that the provision for the general reserve in the 1954 budget should be reduced to $5,000 and an additional $15,000 be granted in that year to the Assembly budget from the general budget.

The effect of the foregoing recommendations, together with the recommendation under item A. above to transfer from the 1951 surplus $4,500 to the Assembly reserve to cover the cost of the meeting in July, 1951, of the Preparatory Commission on the main theme for the Second Assembly, was to permit the raising of the provision for travel subsidies for delegates and consultants, while leaving unchanged at $95,500 the amount of additional revenue required to balance the Assembly budget. The budget reviewed in this way was considered to represent a generous but not an extravagant budget. In some respects further increases might seem desirable but it had been felt that the sum to be raised by special appeal should in no case exceed $100,000.

In reply to Mrs Swain, Bishop Oxnam explained that subsidies for accommodation at Evanston, in so far as necessary, were to be covered from the $34,500 for "Travel subsidies". In reply to Mr. Goodall, Bishop Oxnam explained that the reference in the principles concerning travel subsidies to delegates "coming primarily from the Orient, Africa and the Near East" was most certainly not intended to exclude delegates from Latin America.

On the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee AGREED:

1) that approval should be given to the budget for the Second Assembly, 1954, totalling $267,500 (see Appendix 2), as a basis of planning and preparations until the next meeting of the Central Committee, to which it would after review be presented for approval.

2) that the principles regarding travel subsidies recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee and set out above, be approved.

H. Staff Matters

The Finance Sub-Committee had considered three proposals for assistance to individual staff members at Geneva headquarters, made in accordance with the rules adopted at the recommendation of the Headquarters' Salaries Committee by the Central Committee at Rolle, and the Executive Committee AGREED, on their recommendation, that:

a) dependent relative allowances be granted to two nominated members of the Geneva staff.

b) authority be given for the grant of home travel for the family of one member of the Geneva staff.

A proposal for the grant of home travel for the family of a second member of the Geneva staff was submitted by Bishop Oxnam direct to the Executive Committee and also approved.

The Executive Committee also considered and approved, with retro-active effect to July 1, 1951, a recommendation from the Finance Sub-Committee concerning the expenses allowances granted to the General Secretary.

On the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee the Executive Committee also AGREED
that approval be granted for certain small normal salary increments as from January 1, 1952 to nominated members of the office staff of the New York office.

J. Indebtedness to the Bible Societies concerning Route de Malagnou property

The Sub-Committee had been informed that, in accordance with the decisions taken at Rolle, a commercial mortgage for Frs. 140,000 had been negotiated on the properties at route de Malagnou and the proceeds used to reimburse the indebtedness to the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society. The Bible Societies had expressed their gratitude for this solution of the question.

K. Transfer of Bossey Properties to the World Council

The Sub-Committee had received a report that, in accordance with the previous direction, the properties at Bossey which had previously been registered in the name of the Association for the Ecumenical Institute, a separate legal entity created prior to the incorporation of the World Council, had been transferred into the name of the World Council and that the Association for the Ecumenical Institute was in the process of liquidation.

27. Death of King George

When the Committee learned that H.M. King George had died the meeting was adjourned and a service of prayer led by the Bishop of Chichester was held in the private chapel of Lambeth Palace.

It was decided to send a special message of sympathy to the Royal Family, signed by the Presidents of the World Council present at the meeting. A message was also sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

28. Greetings

A telegram of greetings from the Australian Council of Churches was received with appreciation.

It was AGREED

to send a telegram of greeting to Dr Adolf Keller on the occasion of his 80th birthday.